



# LEEC

LOUISIANA ENVIRONMENTAL  
EDUCATION COMMISSION

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*A Weekly Compilation of Environmental Education News from Across Louisiana*

## LEEC NEWS

# Louisiana's 11th Environmental Awareness Student Art & Language Arts Contest



**Theme:** Louisiana's Natural Resources:  
What's Important to You?"

## WINNERS ANNOUNCED!

### Language Arts Winners

#### **Group 1 (ages 5-7)**

1<sup>st</sup> Emilee King, Chesbrough Elementary School, Tangipahoa Parish

#### **Group 2 (age 8-10)**

1<sup>st</sup> Lakin Graham, Chesbrough Elementary School, Tangipahoa Parish

2<sup>nd</sup> Owen Brouillette, Homeschooled, West Feliciana Parish

3<sup>rd</sup> Lizzie Robert, Isidore Newman School, Jefferson Parish

#### **Group 3 (ages 11-13)**

1<sup>st</sup> Paycen Brouillette, Homeschooled, West Feliciana Parish

2<sup>nd</sup> Clay Knight, Lockport Middle School, Lafourche Parish

3<sup>rd</sup> Shayley Naquin, St. Gregory Catholic School, Terrebonne Parish

#### **Group 4 (ages 14-18)**

1<sup>st</sup> Tara Guy, Mount Hermon School, Washington Parish

2<sup>nd</sup> Brooke Lawson, Grace King High School, Jefferson Parish

3<sup>rd</sup> Maddy McDade, DeRidder Jr. High School, Beauregard Parish

#### **Special Recognition**

Michelle Lee, Episcopal High School, East Baton Rouge Parish

### Art Winners

#### **Group 1 (ages 5-7)**

1<sup>st</sup> Noah Guidroz, Port Barre Elementary School, St. Landry Parish

2<sup>nd</sup> Levi Graham, Chesbrough Elementary School, Tangipahoa Parish

3<sup>rd</sup> Noah Katner, Lusher Charter School, Orleans Parish

#### **Group 2 (age 8-10)**

1<sup>st</sup> Ashini Modi, South Highlands Magnet, Caddo Parish

2<sup>nd</sup> Anna Johnson, Isidore Newman School, Orleans Parish

3<sup>rd</sup> Ethan Guidroz, Lockport Upper Elementary, Lafourche Parish

#### **Group 3 (ages 11-13)**

1<sup>st</sup> Trence Robertson, Port Barre High School, St. Landry Parish

2<sup>nd</sup> Kyle Miller, S. P. Arnett Middle School, Calcasieu Parish

3<sup>rd</sup> Christian Torres, Curtis Elementary, Bossier Parish

#### **Group 4 (ages 14-18)**

1<sup>st</sup> Tuyen Dang, Helen Cox High School, Jefferson Parish

2<sup>nd</sup> Brenden Ledet, Bayou Blue Middle School, Lafourche Parish

3<sup>rd</sup> Victoria-Duyen, Chu Helen Cox High School, Jefferson Parish

The winners were selected from 792 entries submitted by kindergarten through twelfth grade students from 94 schools across the state. These students will be honored for their winning entries at an awards reception to be held in Baton Rouge at the Governor's Mansion on Wednesday, June 12, 2013. Secretary Stephen Chustz, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, will deliver the congratulatory address.

Prizes awarded to the contestants include \$200 for first place, \$100 for second place, and \$75 for third place. Winning art and language arts entries will be used to create a 2014 Environmental Awareness calendar, which will be distributed statewide. Selected winning language arts entries will be published in newspapers and winning art entries will be placed on billboards in the winners' local areas.

On behalf of the contest sponsors: Alcoa Foundation, LEEC, and LDWF...we congratulate the 2013 winning entries! We would like to sincerely thank all students who submitted entries. We have so many talented students in our great state!

**Many, many thanks to all of you who participated and congratulations to all of our winners!**  
For more information, visit the [Environmental Awareness Art & Language Arts Contest](#) page.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### **JASON Project Middle School STEM Training**

Louisiana educators have the opportunity to become JASON Teachers through two JASON Training projects. Each project provides FREE training on integrating JASON's award-winning science content and resources into classrooms. Project 1 also provides FREE access for teachers and students to JASON's digital resources while Project 2 provides FREE access for teachers who attend the training.

**Project 1** is funded by the Baton Rouge Area Foundation (BRAf) and provides training to 75 JASON Coaches and 300 science educators working in 40 southern Louisiana parishes. It includes both JASON Coach training and teacher training.

**Project 2** is funded by the Louisiana Department of Education and provides Teacher training for up to 250 middle school science educators in 19 selected northern Louisiana districts (see district list below).

JASON connects students to real scientists to inspire and motivate them to study and pursue careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. JASON's print and digital resources are aligned to state and national standards so they easily integrate into all science classrooms. Students can access JASON from school, home, the public library, etc... so JASON extends the learning day! The result is a year-round continuum of classroom and out-of-classroom learning that supports standards-based science instruction. Registration can be completed at [www.jason.org/training/louisiana](http://www.jason.org/training/louisiana). See attached flyer for more information.

### **FREE Summer STEM Workshop River Parish Community College**

Calling all K-12 Teachers: River Parishes Community has an exciting professional development opportunity for you. RPCC will host a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Workshop this June. **THE STEM WORKSHOP** will be held **Friday, June 7th and Saturday, June 8th** on the RPCC Campus from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. each day. The workshop is designed to expose teachers to research based practices in STEM, and allow them to partake in hands-on STEM activities. There is no cost for the STEM Workshop. If you are interested, please submit the electronic application (see attachment) to Dr. Esperanza Zenon at [ezenon@rpcc.edu](mailto:ezenon@rpcc.edu) by **Friday, June 1st**.

### **WETSHOP—July 7-12, 2013**

LDWF, LDNR, BTNEP and Sea Grant invite you to participate in this week-long, dynamic teacher workshop at the LDWF Marine Research Lab in Grand Isle, LA. This workshop allows teachers to work with educator/scientists to learn about Louisiana coastal wetlands, issues and history. The focus of the summer workshop is to create wetland stewards of teachers in order for them to educate co-workers and students in their home parishes about coastal land loss. Fifty-five professional contact hours will be accrued upon the completion of this wetland institute. Implementation of a six hour wetland dissemination workshop in your parish after completion of the summer workshop. Teacher stipend available for summer workshop and dissemination workshop during AY.

#### Workshop Highlights

##### *Experience:*

- Fisheries management; research trawling, seining
- Barrier islands and their role in coastal health
- Coastal Botany & Ornithology (visit Brown Pelican rookery)
- Water Quality Testing along fresh to salt water gradient
- Visit transitional Coastal Ecosystems
- Tour one of the largest oil ports in U.S.
- Visit coastal restoration site / Oil Spill impact sites
- Invasive Species (role in coastal land loss)

##### *Receive:*

Wonders of Wetlands Teacher Guidebook  
Numerous classroom resources  
Networking with wetland scientists  
Up to 55 Professional Contact Hours

**Application Deadline: June 10, 2013.** Workshop is limited to 20 teacher. Registration fee is \$50. For more information, contact Angela Capello at (318) 748-6914, [acapello@wlf.la.gov](mailto:acapello@wlf.la.gov)

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, CONT.

### **Science and Mathematics Professional Development Opportunity For Grades 6-12**

Attention 6-12th grade science and mathematics teachers in the Greater New Orleans area...spots are still available for this great professional development opportunity taking place 10 days this summer, **July 8-12, 15-19**, plus 7 Saturdays in the 2013-14 academic year. Don't miss this chance to learn the science behind our coastal wetland issues directly from the scientists, as well as to discover new ways to incorporate coastal wetland related concepts into math and science curriculum. The workshop will be held in the marshes of eastern New Orleans, based at UNO's coastal education and Research Facility! Boat trip to explore the wetlands included! Provided you fully participate in program, we will pay you \$2,550, funded by the Louisiana Systemic Initiatives Program under the Louisiana Board of Regents. Graduate credit at UNO for the seminar is also available. Application is attached. For more information or to send completed application, email to Craig Jensen [cjensen@uno.edu](mailto:cjensen@uno.edu).

### **Professional Development Scholarships for New Science Teachers—Apply by August 1**

Plan for the next school year before the summer has begun. New science teachers can take advantage of NSTA's finest offer—cost free, yearlong professional development for those educators during their most vulnerable career years, their second through fifth year of teaching. The New Science Teacher Academy, a career-enhancing program for middle and high school science teachers in their second through fifth year of teaching provides mentoring with unique support and resources intending to heighten teaching skills and content knowledge, and ease the often difficult initial years as a novice teacher. Hundreds of teachers will be chosen to participate in the 2013–2014 Academy and take advantage of **cost-free**, consistent online professional development activities along with face-to-face educational experiences. A simple application is all it takes. Middle and high school principals should consider making this a top priority for their newest science teachers. The Academy provides each teacher with: a discipline-specific mentor for the entire year, [web-based content development courses](#) and other resources, NSTA [Membership](#) with full benefits, and [2014 National Conference on Science Education](#) attendance including air travel, lodging, meals, and registration fees. To find out more about the Academy and how to apply for a scholarship, visit [www.nsta.org/academy](http://www.nsta.org/academy). **Application deadline: August 1**

### **Online Course: Principles & Foundations of Environmental Education**

The Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education is offering a free online course **June 3-August 11**. Students will gain a foundational knowledge of environmental education and learn how to incorporate quality environmental education (EE) into their instruction. Students explore the history and goals of EE, develop an understanding of the professional roles and instructional methods of environmental educators, and interact with other educators. CAEE's on-line EE Teacher Institute is a professional development course aimed at classroom teachers and non-formal educators. Through distance learning, course participants will explore, at their own pace and from the convenience of their home or office, the knowledge and skills of effective environmental educators. Participants will work first individually and then participate in a virtual large discussion format by giving and receiving feedback from the group. Assignments will help participants build a professional portfolio demonstrating their knowledge and skills in environmental educations. Two optional graduate-level recertification credits are available through the Colorado School of Mines Teacher Enhancement program. [Click here for more detailed information and to register.](#)

### **Quantifying Debris - A Marine Debris Workshop**

*Quantifying Debris*, a 2-day workshop on **June 27-29, 2013** for educators and 1-day field experience for students (grades 6-12) of participating teachers, focuses on the dynamics of marine debris. Open to educators in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, & Texas. Discover the local flora and fauna with area biologists, conduct beach profiling, receive GPS training and up to 16 professional development hours, and return home with a multitude of lessons and activities for your classrooms. Meals and lodging provided. Travel per diem available. **Funding is also available for nine teacher participants to return with their students during the school year.** For more information, see attached flyer and application or contact Venise Ortego, Coordinator at 337-948-0255 or [vortego@wlf.la.gov](mailto:vortego@wlf.la.gov).

## EVENTS

### **LPBF's 24th Annual Back to the Beach Festival**

June 1 & 2, 2013—Laketown in Kenner. Great Music Line-up! Great Festival Food from local caterers! Variety of Arts & Crafts Booths! Fun for the entire family!! <http://saveourlake.org/beach-bands.php>

For more information on this event, contact Angela Dorvin at (504) 836-7117 or [angela@saveourlake.org](mailto:angela@saveourlake.org).

### **Mobile, AL to Host 2013 National Marine Educators Association Conference**

*NO CHILD LEFT INSIDE AUTHOR, RICHARD LOUV, TO GIVE KEYNOTE ADDRESS*

From all over the United States, educators interested in the study and enjoyment of the world of water will be headed to Mobile, AL to take part in the 2013 National Marine Educators Conference on **July 22-26**. Richard Louv, recipient of the Audubon Medal, is a journalist and author of eight books about the connections between family, nature and community. His national best seller, Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder, has stimulated an international conversation about the relationship between children and nature. He will serve as the keynote speaker for the 2013 National Marine Educators Association Conference on its opening night at the Historic Saenger Theater in Downtown Mobile, AL. The conference will be held on the beautiful campus of Spring Hill College and evening events will be hosted at some of the most exceptional locations the region has to offer. Register today and enjoy a week filled with adventure, enrichment, networking, and learning along the Gulf of Mexico! **Full details can be found on <http://nmea.disl.org/> and <https://www.facebook.com/Nmea2013MobileAl?fref=ts>.**

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## WEBINARS

### **OneNOAA Science Seminars**

All seminars are open to the public (unless otherwise indicated) and offer limited remote access on a first come first served basis. Please check the [OneNOAA Science Seminars](#) web page for the most updated seminar information or contact Hernan Garcia, [Hernan.Garcia@noaa.gov](mailto:Hernan.Garcia@noaa.gov).

[Quieting a Noisy Ocean: Policy Guidance for Effective Regulation of Underwater Sound](#)

May 28, 2013; 12:00-13:00 Eastern Time; NOAA HQ [SSMC-3](#) 2nd Floor Library

[Defining and Predicting Heatwave \(Coldwave\) Intensity in Australia](#)

May 29, 2013; 13:00-14:00 Eastern Time; NOAA HQ [SSMC-2](#) Room 14316

[Why look back? The value of historical information for fisheries analysis](#)

May 30, 2013; 11:00-12:00 Pacific Time; NOAA [NWFSC Auditorium](#) (Seattle, WA)

[Pollution in Paradise: Evidence of High Levels of Pollution in the Coral Reef Ecosystems of Guanica Bay, Puerto Rico](#)

June 05, 2013; 12:00-13:00h Eastern Time; NOAA HQ [SSMC-4](#) Room 8150

[Ecological Forces Shaping Coastal Marine Ecosystems: The Intermittent Upwelling Hypothesis and a Test](#)

June 06, 2013; 11:00-12:00 Pacific Time; NOAA [NWFSC Auditorium](#) (Seattle, WA)

### **Landscaping and Biodiversity: Conserving Biodiversity in Urban Planning and Development Webinar**

**Tuesday, June 4, 2013, 2:00 pm (EST) [Register](#)**

Residential developments are situated near or in habitats that sustain native plant and animal communities. Conserving or restoring the unique natural features inherent on every parcel of land benefits the local environment, property owners, and the region's heritage. When land is subdivided, how does one conserve local biodiversity and minimize impacts on surrounding landscapes? Join Dr. Mark Hostetler, professor with the Dept. of Wildlife Ecology & Conservation, University of Florida, for a presentation about his experiences to shift conventional development inertia to something more compatible with urban biodiversity conservation. Policy makers, planners, built environment professionals, and citizens all play a role in creating and maintaining green developments. Through case studies and "real-world" experiences with development projects, he will discuss ways to engage all stakeholders in order to create functioning green communities. He will stress the importance of addressing decisions made during the design, construction, and post-construction phases of new subdivision development. For more Information, [click here](#).

## RESOURCES

### Science and Math Informal Learning Educators (SMILE)

Science and Math Informal Learning Educators (SMILE) has been a major project at UC Berkeley's Lawrence Hall of Science and its partner institutions since 2008. How to SMILE is a pathway (an audience-specific branch) of the National Science Digital Library (NSDL.org). SMILE has more than 3,400 engaging hands-on interactive STEM activities that are both physical and virtual. Topics include Chemistry, Mathematics, Ocean Literacy, Climate, Energy, Life Sciences, Cooking and Astronomy. <http://www.howtosmile.org>

### Online Climate and Energy Teaching Resources – Grades 6-12

[Search the CLEAN Collection](#) directs you to 500+ vetted, online activities, videos, and visualizations on climate and energy for grades 6-16. These resources have been hand-picked and rigorously reviewed by scientists for accuracy and by teachers for classroom effectiveness.

[Guidance on Teaching Climate and Energy Science](#) provides using climate and energy literacy principles. Read a summary of each principle, why the concepts involved are important, what makes them challenging to teach, and suggestions of grade-specific teaching strategies. See activities, videos, and visualizations for teaching this principle. [Learn more](#) about teaching this principle. [Find activities](#) for teaching this principle.

### Plant Study Teacher Guide

The guides created to accompany the book *Living Sunlight: How Plants Bring the Earth to Life*, these educators guide can help K-5 students understand that energy from the Sun is necessary for life on Earth. Found at <http://bit.ly/YQ9hXi>

### Beach Advisory Information Available Online at BEACON

With beach season getting underway, people can use EPA's BEach Advisory and Closing Online Notification system (BEACON) to access advisory information. BEACON carries water quality and pollution testing information for more than 6,000 U.S. beaches, based on data provided by states, territories and tribes. Users can access mapped location data for beaches and water monitoring stations, monitoring results for pollutants such as bacteria and algae, as well as reports that combine notifications and water quality monitoring data. The majority of beach advisories and closures in the U.S. are due to water test results indicating bacterial contamination, which can make people sick. Sources of bacterial contamination include sewer overflows, untreated stormwater runoff, boating wastes, animal waste, and malfunctioning septic systems. For more information, visit <http://watersgeo.epa.gov/beacon2/>

### Scenic River Review Newsletter

Spring Edition of Scenic Rivers Review is just released...

<http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/scenic-rivers-review-newsletters>



# Happy Memorial Day Weekend!

Find out about wetland outreach activities including symposiums, conferences, meetings, educational opportunities, volunteer opportunities, & related support material at the *Louisiana Unified Coastal Community Calendar* at <http://lacoast.gov/calendar/>

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